THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Instructions already exist for punctual running of trains, provision of various passenger amenities according to prescribed standards in trains and at stations and their proper upkeep by intensive chasing and round-the-clock monitoring.

Programme for track renewal railways

697. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have programmed 2850 kms. for track renewal during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the thrust areas where the renewal will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The thrust area is liquidation of arrears of over due renewals particularly on high density/high speed routes, along with upgradation of their track structure.

Emergency quota seats/berths in different trains

698. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the modus operendi of releasing emergency quota seats/berths in different trains;

(b) what is the nature of priority of the VIPs recommending for confirmation of wait-listed tickets;

(c) whether the recommendation of the MPs are given any priority; and

(d) the number of seats/berths which were released from the emergency quota in the month of June 1992 and the number of seats/berths which were confirmed on the recommendations of MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A limited number of berths/seats has been earmarked as emergency quota to meet the urgent travel requirements of high official requisition holders, Ministers, VIPs and other emergent demands. Requests received from Members of Parliament and various other quarters for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota are given due priority taking into account factors like status of the passenger travelling, nature of urgency like Government duty, bereavement, sickness, etc.

(d) As a large number of such requests is received and dealt with on day-to-day basis, break-up of the requests received from various sources is not maintained.

Electrification of rail routes in Andhra Pradesh

699. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various proposals for electrification of rail routes in Andhra Pradesh in the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of electrification work currently underway in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the funds proposed to be earmarked in Eighth Plan for railway electrification in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Railways Programme for electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan period has not so far been finalised. Currently electrification of the following sections falling in the State of Andhra Pradesh is in progress: